

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 22, 1883, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Oakland, Tuesday. July 2(?) 1883. My dear Alec:

I was very glad indeed to hear from you this morning. The note was short, but an even shorter one would have been most heartily welcomed. I don't despise telegrams by any means, but what sacredness or privacy of affection can there be in a thing open to the gaze of the telegraph operators? Let me see the report of your interview if it is published, I am surprised that McDenough has made even one point against you.

How are Chester's specifications coming on, I should think all this controversy about your inventions would make him doubly anxious to get in his patent as soon as possible. Poor fellow I am sorry for you in "frightfully hot" weather. It is quite cool here today with heavy showers, but yesterday was oppressive.

I have come from a struggle with poor little Elsie. Now don't prejudge me but listen. It is just following out your advice. When they went to their nap this afternoon I gave them candy to be good. Well they were not, once the nurse was out of their way they had a "high old time" throwing pillows about, so finally Susie went in and carried Daisy to her bed. Whereupon Elsie yelled. I went in and finally quieted her, but this evening I refused to give them candy. I had Elsie apart and she began screaming and declared she would scream all night, I told her I was sorry, very sorry, but she had been naughty and I could not give her candy. I don't know what more I said, something it was about God's punishing me as I did her when I did wrong how. He had promised me a baby if I would be careful, but I had not been, and He took the little one from me just as I would not let her have the candy. She was impressed, but when I tried to send her to bed she began again. Then I told her I did not believe she could love me or she would try and do as I wanted her to, it

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was easy to kiss me but hard to be good when she did not want to, would she not show she did love me, she said she would think! I said very well, but I could not have a little girl who wasn't sure she loved me on my lap, so I put her on the bed and sat beside her and gave her my watch. At two minutes end she had decided she would be good. How — by loving you, well but how does Mamma want you to show you love her “I don't know!” Well will you go and lie down and not cry or talk to Daisy tonight, Yes — repeat after me, which she did. She was quite quiet and gentle and put her arms tight around my neck. Then there was Daisy, I told her she has been naughty and could not have her candy

(rest of letter missing)